

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05

FRB-03 CIEP-01 OPIC-03 ( ISO ) W  
----- 110831

R 200720Z MAY 75

FM AMEMASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5855

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR, XA, CM

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS: MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT AHIDJO

1. SUMMARY: CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO RECEIVED DAVIS AND  
AMBASSADOR MAY 17 FOR HOUR AND A QUARTER FOR EXCHANGE OF  
VIEWS ON US-CAMEROON RELATIONS, SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, AND  
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS INCLUDING COMMODITY AGREEMENTS,  
FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT. ATMOSPHERE WAS  
RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER WELCOMING DAVIS TO CAMEROON AND ASKING ABOUT HIS  
PREVIOUS STOPS, PRESIDENT AHIDJO ASKED DAVIS TO COMMENT ON  
RANGE OF ISSUES IN US AFRICAN POLICY, INCLUDING POSITIONS  
ON DECOLONIZATION, APARTHEID, DEGREE OF US INTEREST IN  
AFRICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AFTER DAVIS HAD DESCRIBED  
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US POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, ANGOLA,

AND SOUTH AFRICA, AHIDJO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD QUOTE NOTHING SPECIAL TO SAY UNQUOTE REGARDING US POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT APPRECIATED HEARING A RECONFIRMATION. RECALLING HIS OWN ROLE IN PRESENTING TO UN IN 1969 THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO WHICH SOUGHT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE CALLED SOUTH AFRICA QUOTE THE MOST COMPLEX PROBLEM IN AFRICA UNQUOTE. CAMEROON DID NOT OPPOSE EFFORTS OF NEIGHBORING STATES - ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, BOTSWANA - TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MINORITY REGIMES, AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA UNDER OAU UMBRELLA. HE ADDED THAT ONLY IDEALISTS EXPECT QUICK RESULTS IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. CHANGE WOULD TAKE TIME AND WOULD HAVE TO BE ACHIEVED IN STEPS, RECOGNIZING THAT WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE AFRICANS TOO. RE ANGOLA HE SAID THAT OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE AWARE OF THE DIVISIONS THERE AND WERE WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY. (AT LUNCHEON HE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN THAT INDEPENDENCE COULD WELL BRING CIVIL WAR.)

3. TURNING TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST US ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON AND HOPE THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE AND BE INTENSIFIED. HE THEN RAISED SUBJECT OF COMMODITY PRICES WHICH HE CALLED QUOTE THE PRIMORDIAL QUESTION UNQUOTE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US ATTACHMENT TO FREE MARKET BUT STABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS WERE CRUCIAL TO AFRICAN AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, DAVIS STATED THAT US DOES NOT OPPOSE AGREEMENTS TO PREVENT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS BUT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WITH PRICE FLOORS BUT NO CEILINGS. HE MENTIONED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT AT RECENT INTERNATIONAL COFFEE MEETING IN LONDON, US DELEGATION HAD SHOWN FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS THAT HAD CAUSED FAVORABLE REACTION AMONG PARTICIPANTS. WITH RESPECT TO COCOA, HE ADDED THAT US WILLING, IF INVITED, TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS TO CONSIDER REVISED AGREEMENT. HE ALSO CITED US EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN CAMEROON, INCLUDING OPIC CHOICE OF CAMEROON AS ONE OF FIVE AFRICAN EMPHASIS COUNTRIES.

4. MEETING CLOSED WITH DAVIS EXPRESSING US RESPECT FOR  
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AHIDJO'S STATESMANLIKE POSITIONS ON AFRICAN QUESTIONS AND

AHIDJO RESPONDING THAT HE HOPED FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WOULD GROW. AFTERWARD, WITH KEY MINISTERS PRESENT, AHIDJO HOSTED LUNCH IN RELAXED AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.  
MOORE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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